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National Security  
Decision Directive 176

July 9, 1985

COMBATTING TERRORISM IN CENTRAL AMERICA (S)

The recent terrorist attack against American citizens in El Salvador is clearly aimed at creating public antipathy in the United States toward our support for democratic institutions in Central America, in general, and El Salvador, in particular. It is imperative that we take prompt action to demonstrate our commitment and resolve. Our actions must be designed to enhance the capabilities of the Salvadorans to deal with the threat of urban terrorism, further their campaign against guerrillas in the field, revitalize their economy, and protect American citizens in their country. Accordingly, the following steps shall be taken:

- The Secretary of Defense shall commence expedited procurement and delivery of those items which have been ordered by the Government of El Salvador under our military assistance program. Where necessary, items may be drawn from U.S. stocks, diverted from assets intended for other countries, or purchased through accelerated procurement procedures. The priority and timing of delivery for these items shall be coordinated with the Government of El Salvador to ensure optimum effect. The Secretary of Defense, in concert with the Secretary of State, shall make recommendations as to whether it is necessary to use my emergency authorities to furnish the El Salvadoran Armed Forces (ESAF) with additional military materiel. (S)
- The Secretary of State, in coordination with Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, and the Director of Central Intelligence, shall submit by July 20, 1985 proposals for helping the government of El Salvador improve their public security programs. This should include measures that will enhance the investigative, police, counter-terrorist, and judicial capabilities of the Salvadoran police and security services. This report should include recommendations on additional resource requirements. (S)

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Requisite training and support for the establishment of an effective Salvadoran anti-terrorist unit should be a part of the assistance we provide. (S)

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Declassified/Released on 2/12/76

under provisions of E.O. 12958

by J Saunders, National Security Council

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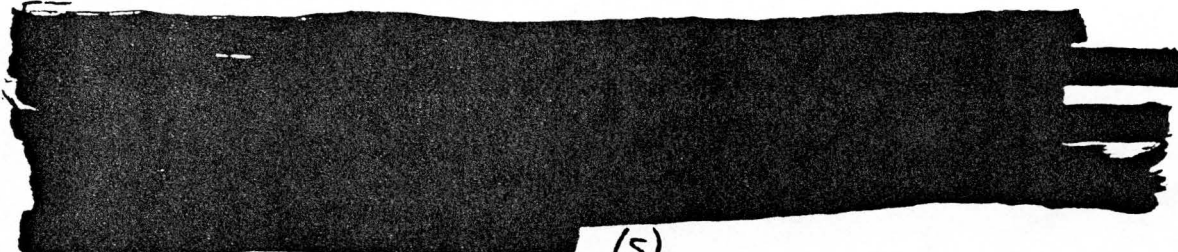
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The Secretary of State shall submit by July 20, 1985 proposals for supplemental assistance required to safeguard U.S. interests in Central America and to assist the countries of that area in meeting the threat of terrorism, subversion, and destabilization. These proposals should cover both economic and security assistance and should be designed to bridge the gap between the levels recommended by the President's National Bipartisan Commission on Central America and those authorized by the Congress for 1985 and, if fully funded, for 1986. These proposals should be coordinated with other concerned USG departments/agencies and include their recommendations for additional resources as required. Once a final decision is made on additional resource requirements, the Secretary of State will take the lead in conducting requisite consultations with the appropriate committees of Congress. (C)

*Ronald Reagan*

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